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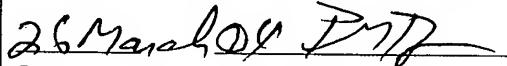


PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joichi Bita  
Serial No.: 10/717,335  
Conf. No.: 8257  
Filed: 11/19/2003  
For: STORAGE CONTROL APPARATUS  
AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF  
Art Unit: 2652  
Examiner: Not assigned

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.



Date

Registration No. 29,367  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office			Attorney Docket No.: 3408.68745	Serial No.: 10/717,335
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)			Applicant: Joichi Bita	
			Filing Date: 11/19/2003	Group: 2652



## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,819,054	Oct. 6, 1998	Ninomiua et al.			3-17-97
	6,012,119	Jan. 4, 2000	Ninomiua et al.			1-26-98
	5,579,474	Nov. 26, 1994	Kakuta et al.			5-24-94
	5,692,155	Nov. 25, 1997	Iskiyan et al.			4-19-95

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2002-132453	May 10, 2002	Japan			Abs.	
	7-20994*	Jan. 24, 1995	Japan			X	
	6-202817**	Jul. 22, 1994	Japan			X	
	2001-014112	Jan. 19, 2001	Japan			Abs.	
	7-160432	Jun. 23, 1995	Japan			Abs.	
	8-305500***	Nov. 22, 1996	Japan			X	
	2000-10901****	Jan. 14, 2000	Japan			X	

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner	Date Considered
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\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

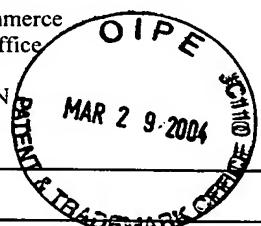
\*Corresponds to USPNos. 5,819,054 and 6,012,119.

\*\* Corresponds to USPN 5,579,474.

\*\*\* Corresponds to USPN 5,692,155.

\*\*\*\* Corresponds to USPN 6,341,332.

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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,720,028	Feb. 17, 1998	Matsumoto et al.			6-5-96
	5,761,705	Jun. 2, 1998	De Koning et al.			4-4-96

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2-017550	Jan. 22, 1990	Japan			Abs.	
	6-067979	Mar. 11, 1994	Japan			Abs.	
	10-198607	Jul. 31, 1998	Japan			Abs.	
	8-335144*	Dec. 17, 1996	Japan			X	
	10-105467**	Apr. 24, 1998	Japan			X	

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


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\*Corresponds to USPN 5,720,028.

\*\* Corresponds to USPN 5,761,705.